



City of Seattle

Michael Patrick McGinn, Mayor

Executive Department – Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Marco Lowe, Director

June 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council President Conlin
Councilmember Bagshaw
Councilmember Burgess
Councilmember Clark
Councilmember Godden
Councilmember Harrell
Councilmember Licata
Councilmember O'Brien
Councilmember Rasmussen

FROM: Marco Lowe, Director, OIR (684-9202)
Kris Effertz, OED
Andres Mantilla, DON
Kenny Pittman, OIR

SUBJECT: SOUTH PARK BRIDGE CLOSURE: CITY RESPONSES

Purpose:

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an overview of potential projects/responses to mitigate the impacts of King County's scheduled closure of the South Park Bridge on the South Park community.

Background:

- On June 30, 2010, King County will officially close the South Park Bridge to **all** traffic due to safety concerns associated with its deteriorated condition. The bridge closure is necessary due to its engineering sufficiency rating of 4 out of a possible 100, making it the worst heavily traveled bridge in the state of Washington.
- The South Park Bridge provides one of the transportation routes to the South Park neighborhood and is a major regional freight corridor that provides traffic access for an estimated 20,000 vehicles each day. That includes 2,800 truck trips per day to one of the largest industrial and shipyard complexes in Washington (Boeing Field, Port of Seattle, Duwamish waterfront, rail facilities, and the industrial areas of Kent and Auburn.)
- In response to the pending bridge closure, Seattle created an interdepartmental team (South Park IDT) to identify short-term and long-term strategies that will lessen the impact of the bridge closure on the South Park

neighborhood and business community. The overall approach of the South Park IDT was to identify/develop strategies that activate street life, make physical improvements to the area and bring people into South Park by:

- Providing transportation-related improvements to ease traffic congestion resulting from the bridge closure;
- Working with community and business leaders/groups on strategies that support neighborhood businesses and the overall community;
- Working with King County Metro on public transit re-routing plans to meet the needs of the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods; and
- Coordinating/enhancing the delivery of city services in the area.

Departmental Projects/Responses (Potential):

As a result of the South Park IDT process, departments identified a range of potential projects/responses to help mitigate the impact of the scheduled bridge closure. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Transportation-Related

- Monitor traffic and make necessary revisions to respond to the bridge closure (**Department of Transportation**);
- Make operational changes to the South Park street system (**Department of Transportation**);
- Provide additional re-route signage within City to lessen impact of additional traffic within residential areas (**Department of Transportation, in consultation with King County**); and
- Identify and improve pedestrian and street lighting areas - LED lighting (**Seattle City Light and Department of Transportation**).

Community Activation/Engagement

- Establish a Vibrant South Park Cultural Activation Program to enhance South Park as a cultural destination with increased family-friendly art, music and cultural events that represent the diversity of the community (**Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs**);
- Target outreach of the Seattle Youth Employment Program to the South Park neighborhood (**Human Services Department**);
- Increase Super Clean and Green events in the South Park neighborhood (**Parks Department, in consultation with Seattle Public Utilities and Department of Neighborhoods**);
- Offer special programming at the South Park branch and provide increased use of facilities for community events and information (**Seattle Public Library**);
- Enhance the use of the South Park Community Tech Center for positive youth engagement, workforce training and community development (**Department of Information Technology, in consultation with other departments**);
- Implement a Street Tree planting program (50 street trees) in the South Park neighborhood (**Department of Transportation**);
- Work with artists & cultural organizations to include South Park in their programming efforts (**Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs**); and

- Target Neighborhood Matching Funds (MNF) to support community activities in the South Park neighborhood **(Department of Neighborhoods)**.

Business Support

- Develop a comprehensive business support program that may include the following activities:
 - Inventory of businesses to determine needs;
 - Develop a neighborhood business marketing/promotion plan;
 - Develop a 14th Avenue South façade improvement program;
 - Provide assistance to help businesses connect with business support organizations for financial and technical assistance; and
 - Work with restaurants & Boeing to re-connect lunch time businesses that use to cross the South Park Bridge. **(Office of Economic Development, in consultation with other departments and public/private organizations)**
- Work with existing service provider to provide outreach services to individual businesses in the South Park community **(Office of Economic Development)**; and
- Increase marketing efforts of utility assistance programs for residential, multifamily and commercial properties, with special emphasis on ethnic businesses **(Seattle Public Utilities)**.

Next Steps:

- Conduct a South Park community meeting to receive feedback on the list of potential projects/responses and solicit input from the community on additional ideas. (June 9, 2010)
- Schedule a Council briefing to discuss feedback and input received from the community meeting.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Attachment: Traffic Routing Map: South Park Bridge Closure (King County)